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Assistant Secretary's Daily Activity Report  
Office of Andean Affairs  
April 3, 2002

RELEASED IN PART  
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VENEZUELA

(C) Chavistas Lose Procedural Vote Calling for Interior Minister's Resignation.

- Chávez supporters lost a procedural vote on April 2 to consider resolution calling for Minister of Interior and Justice Rodríguez Chacín's immediate resignation. Opposition politicians called for the vote to place this issue at the top of the chamber's agenda.
- The support of dissident Fifth Republic (MVR) deputies and the perhaps orchestrated absence of a significant number of *oficialista* MVR deputies provided the opposition alliance *Autonomía Parlamentaria* the votes it needed. Chamber Second Vice President Nohelí Pocaterra immediately gaveled the session into recess.
- While opposition deputies were euphoric with their procedural victory, it remains to be seen if the opposition can maintain a simple majority to pass this non-binding resolution.
- (Naranjo/Ochiltree  
telcon, *El Universal*, *El Nacional*, *Globovisión*)

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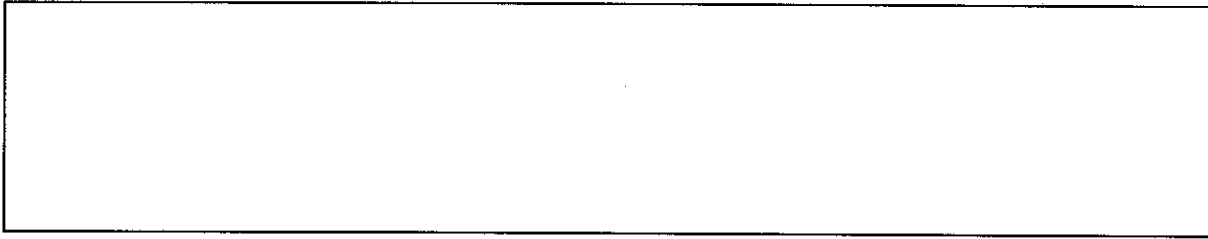
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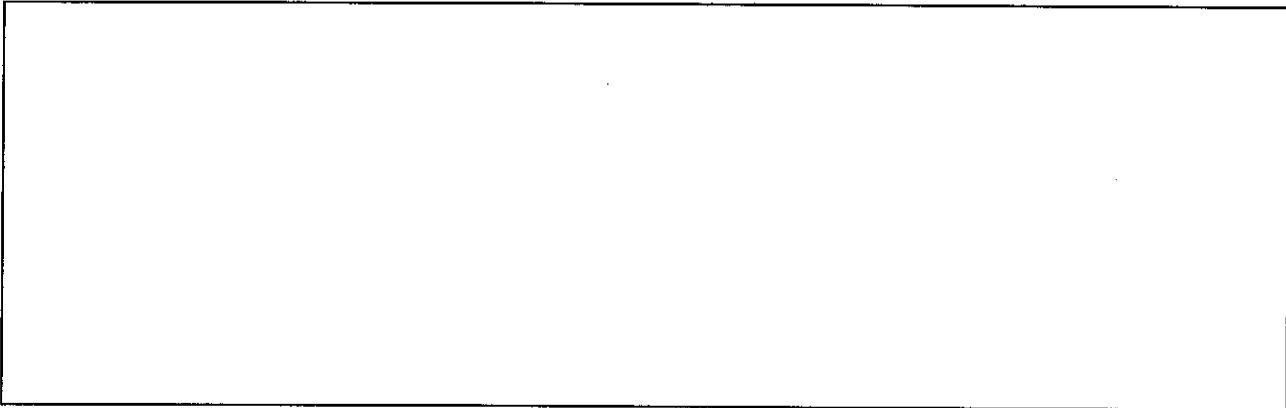


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**VENEZUELA**

**(U) Work Begins on "Consultative Referendum":**

- Opposition political parties Movement Towards Socialism (MAS-menos), Project Venezuela (PV), Democratic Action (AD), Union, and Christian Social party (COPEI), joined by 30 NGOs, agreed to make their top priority the holding of a "consultative referendum" on whether Chávez should resign.
- This non-binding referendum should not be confused with a "recall referendum" that could remove Chávez from office, but which cannot be held for another two years.
- For the opposition will need to collect the signatures of ten percent of registered voters to hold a "consultative referendum." (*Naranjo/Ochiltree e-mail*)



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